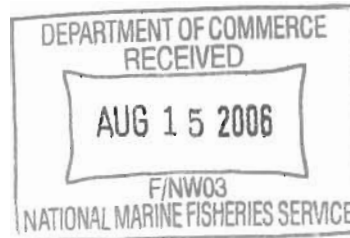


# Drs. Thomas and Margo Wyckoff

4415 52nd Ave. N.E.  
Seattle, Wash. 98105  
(206) 522-3133



Aug. 12, 2006

To: Chief, NMFS  
Protected Resources Division  
1201 NE Lloyd Blvd. Suite 1100  
Portland, OR, 97232-1274

Re: Proposed Critical Habitat for Southern Resident Killer Whales

To Whom It May Concern,

We write to argue for the inclusion of all of Hood Canal in the designation of critical habitat for Southern Resident orca. Currently, your proposal includes only the northern most portion of Hood Canal, from the Hood Canal bridge to Foulweather Bluff, and excludes the major portion of Hood Canal which lies south of the Hood Canal bridge. We intend to demonstrate the following: 1. that Hood Canal, while sparsely occupied since the mid 1980's, does meet the criteria of "current occupation" to an extent similar to that of Southern Puget Sound, ie., that we have a number of valid sightings in the 1990-2003 period. 2. that there is strong and irrefutable evidence of historic occupation dating back at least hundreds of years up to the early 1980's and 3. Increasing future occupation is not only inevitable but also necessary to the survival and growth of the species.

For the last 6 weeks, since seeing the announcement of the critical habitat proposal in the Seattle Times, we have been attempting to understand why the portion of Hood Canal south of the floating bridge was not included. To that end, with the assistance of o Hood Canal residents, we have been gathering reports of citizen sightings of orca over the decades in all parts of the canal, and these reports are attached as an addendum. Through the efforts of Ms. Kirie Pedersen, who with her parents is a life-long resident of Brinnon, we have photos of orca in Dabob Bay, Hood Canal, taken in 1973, and positively identified as J pod by Dr. David Bain; orca expert; these photos are included in the addendum. In addition, we have seen scientific documentation of J pod presence in Dabob Bay in 1958 and 1995, identified through acoustic recordings taken by the Navy and subsequently published and accepted by whale scientists. While certainly hundreds of canal residents have seen resident orca in the canal over the years, many of these people are either deceased or of such advanced age that their stories could not be told. Through phone calls, personal interviews, e-mail networking, and community meetings in Seabeck and Brinnon, we have amassed a body of information of public knowledge in a very short period of time, with over 30 different interviews reflecting orca sightings from the 1920's to 1995. We have excluded the numerous sightings, photos, and well documented reports of the presence of transient orca in the canal in 2003 and 2005. With

the assistance of whale scientist Dr. David Bain, who has personally interviewed many of these people, we have a solid base of sightings within the canal which are definitely or likely to have been Southern Resident orca. In addition, through the published legends of the Skokomish and Port Gamble s'Klallam tribes, we have further affirmation of the historic presence of SR orca. Dr. Ron Hirschi, marine biologist and member of the S'Klallam tribe, has affirmed, on behalf of this tribe, that salmon eating orca have been in Hood Canal for hundreds of years.

With regards to the period of "current occupation," in addition to the Naval acoustic recording of J pod of December 1995, we have two added citizen sightings from this same period, one off the southern shore of the Toandos Peninsula, and the second in Dabob Bay itself. Dr. Bain has interviewed both of these observers and can testify as to their being likely Southern Resident orca sightings and will do so in his comments submitted separately.

With regards to the question of future occupation, it appears certain that Hood Canal will receive increasing use by the SR orca in the years to come, as it has all three of the physical and biological features listed as essential to the conservation of the SR orca. First, the water quality is generally superior to that of many other areas of Puget Sound. The canal is internationally recognized as a unique and relatively pristine marine environment. With the exception of the naval use and logging, it has not seen the industrial usage of other areas of Puget Sound. To my knowledge, it does not contain anywhere near the extent of industrial toxins such as PCBs and fire retardants that urban areas of the Sound possess. The Olympic Mountain drainage is relatively toxin free, and this drainage compromised historically only by deleterious logging practices which are being curtailed. The issue of deoxygenation is now well recognized at both the state and local levels and strong efforts are underway to improve septic and sewer systems throughout the canal region to lessen the nitrogen input into the canal. This compromise to water quality is also fixable.

Second, prey (salmon) availability, while decreased significantly from pre-settlement numbers as it is the rest of our inland waters, is relatively strong in many species and improving. As the attached citizen reports indicate, the salmon fishing fell off dramatically in the canal in the mid 1980's, which is the same period in which the orca sightings dropped off. Also, the mid 1980's saw the last major harvest, or over harvest perhaps, of canal herring. According to residents at the time, 1985 was a record year for canal herring spawn, and they were harvested that year by the millions by commercial fishermen, and have not been seen in similar numbers since. However, there are signs of gradual improvement in bait fish availability throughout the Puget Sound this year according to many citizens and biologists. Also, by the mid 1980's, due to the Marine Mammal Protection Act, the seal population was dramatically increasing, which put further pressure on the salmon population. The 2003 and 2005 transient orca presence in the canal has significantly reduced the seal pressure on salmon. From data on the internet and conversations with the WDFW salmon biologist for Hood Canal, Tom Johnson, it is apparent that many canal salmon returns remain strong or are improving. The summer chum recovery efforts have brought the returns from a few hundred in the 1990's to 87,000 in 2004. The fall chum runs, despite commercial harvesting pressure, remain strong, with recent returns of over 900,000 fish. Coho returns, many of them wild, are stable, with recent returns of 180,000. Chinook runs, as throughout the Puget Sound, are

endangered, and returns are down to a few thousand wild fish in the canal, with the exception of the Hoodspout hatchery return of about 30,000 Chinook annually. According to Tom Johnson of WDFW, and with the help of many organizations such as the Hood Canal Coordinating Council, Chinook recovery plans are well underway for many of the canal rivers, especially those flowing in from the Olympic Mountains. The Skokomish tribe has recently begun a Chinook recovery program which includes removing the dikes that created pasture land in the Skokomish River delta and returning the area to salt marsh, which will enhance the ecology of the area dramatically, and positively affect salmon returns. The Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group is well established with strong membership and multiple efforts towards stream restoration, to include removal of obstructions, culvert replacement where needed, placement of salmon incubators on small streams, and even experimenting with "seeding" some streams with salmon carcasses in the fall in order to enhance the food chain on which the salmon fry depend. The state WRIA or water resource inventory for Hood canal region has detailed analysis of every significant stream and river in the canal watershed, with data on currently available spawning habitat and recommendations for improvement. For example, re-routing or redesigning Highway 101 as it crosses the deltas of many rivers on the west side of the canal, such as the Dosewallips, would allow significant recovery of spawning habitat. As Steve Jeffries of WDFW recently told me, if there is the political will and funding, "the future of salmon runs in Hood Canal looks good."

Regarding the third aspect of "physical or biological features", Hood Canal also has much to offer in the effort to rehabilitate the SR orca group. While the Hood Canal floating bridge may present some mild hindrance to SR orca movement, the historic record indicates that SR orca have had strong presence in Hood Canal since it was created in 1961. Vessel traffic on Hood Canal is significantly less than that on other portions of the proposed critical habitat. Naval vessel traffic is only intermittent, recreational boating is sparse, except for the four day shrimp season when 3000 or so small boats are spread along the canal's 60 mile length, and commercial use is minor. Likewise, possibly intrusive noise is minimal, and the Navy officially abides by the new regulations regarding sonar use in the presence of marine mammals.

The most important aspect of future occupation of Hood Canal by SR orca is the argument, made by Dr. Bain and other whale scientists, that if the SR orca group is to survive, it will have to grow in numbers and to do this it will need as much of its original healthy habitat as is possible, and Hood canal certainly meets this criteria.

Finally, there are a number of planned activities in Hood Canal which could have adverse effect on the canal environment and the health of the entire ecosystem, including the SR orca, if they are not well scrutinized and regulated. One is the proposal by a Canadian business group to create a large international destination resort on the west shores of Hood Canal near Pleasant Harbor. A second proposal which in present form could harm the environment of the canal as well as habitat of orca is the "Pit to Pier" project, a gravel mining operation in Thorndyke Bay that includes plans for an three mile conveyor belt bringing gravel to an 1100 foot pier where gravel would be loaded onto ships up to 800 ft long several times a week. Third, many are concerned about the possible future commercialization of the canal, that without the added protection to the canal which orca critical habitat inclusion would bring, one of the most unique and precious waterways of the world, a 60 mile fjord relatively unspoiled by human development, would ironically

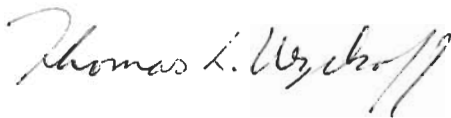
become the one place in our inland waters where there are the weakest regulations controlling development.

In conclusion, after outlining numerous reasons why the Hood canal should be included in the critical habitat designation for SR orca, we, and others who value our environmental heritage, and want as much of it to be available as possible to future generations, we would ask "why not include Hood Canal?"

Thank you for considering our above comments as well as your efforts to protect our endangered Southern Resident orcas.

Enclosed are Addendum A, copies of citizen testimony and sightings; and Addendum B, two sheets of photos of Southern Resident orca following a sailboat in Dabob Bay, Hood Canal, taken by the biologists at the Pt. Whitney shellfish laboratory in the summer of 1973.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Thomas L. Wyckoff". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid.

Dr. Thomas L. Wyckoff

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Margo G. Wyckoff". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid.

Dr. Margo G. Wyckoff

from Wyzanski letter  
to NMFS

Addendum A

Copies of Citizen Sightings  
of ORCA on Hood Canal

## **Tom and Margo**

---

**From:** "Tom and Margo" <tmwyckoff@comcast.net>  
**To:** "Tom & Margo Wyckoff" <tmwyckoff@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 24, 2006 1:39 PM  
**Subject:** Fw: S.R. Orca sightings in Hood Canal - citizen sighting

To: NOAA

This testimony was given orally to Dr. Tom Wyckoff by Mr. Roger Anderson who lived in the Seabeck area, Hood Canal for many decades. His email address is rogandnorma@msn.com. His telephone is 360-830-0962. He would be pleased to write a letter or speak to NOAA officials answering more of their questions about S.R. orca in Hood Canal.

Roger and Norma Anderson are long-standing residents of Seabeck and former operators of the Miami Beach Resort, (just south of Misery Point on Hood Canal) which included a large salmon-fishing boathouse in the 1950's and 1960's. He was also a recreational scuba-diver.

Mr. Anderson recalls seeing pods of salmon-eating orca numbering 7 to 14 at least several times a year during the 50's and early 60's. Most often he would see them in the summer or fall when the salmon were running. When one of the fishermen from his resort would come in and say "the blackfish (meaning the orca) are in" he knew the sports fishermen would not catch salmon for awhile.

He frequently saw pods just off Misery Point heading to the south end of Hood Canal to where the salmon were returning to spawn. He also often saw them off the east side of the Toandos Peninsula near Dabob Bay, Hood Canal.

Drs. Tom and Margo Wyckoff  
4415 52nd. Ave. NE  
Seattle, Wa. 98105

206-522-3133 (Seattle)  
360698-3053 (Hood Canal)

7/24/2006

## **Tom and Margo**

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**From:** "Tom and Margo" <tmwyckoff@comcast.net>  
**To:** "phyllis bogard" <pbogard001@wavecable.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, July 22, 2006 12:06 PM  
**Subject:** Fw: Fw: letter to NMFS

To: The National Marine Fisheries Service

Re: Hood Canal Orcas

My name is Phyllis Bogard and I would like to report a sighting of orcas in Hood Canal in April of 2006.

I have waterfront property in the Seabeck area and saw a pod of 5 or 6 heading from the general area of Hazel Point to Misery Point and Dabob Bay.

I definitely believe that Hood Canal should be included with the rest of Puget Sound as a critical habitat for the orcas.

Phyllis Bogard  
(360) 698-0483

7/24/2006

**Tom and Margo**

**From:** "David Bain" <dbain@u.washington.edu>  
**To:** "tm >> Tom and Margo" <tmwyckoff@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 27, 2006 10:05 AM  
**Subject:** [Fwd: Fw: Hood Canal Update]

Fritts, Susan

----- Original Message -----

**Subject:** Fw: Hood Canal Update  
**Date:** Wed, 19 Jul 2006 11:18:42 -0700  
**From:** John Fabian <fabianj@olympus.net>  
**To:** <orca@brinnoninfo.com>

FYI

----- Original Message -----

**From:** Kurt Fritts  
**To:** fabianj@olympus.net  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 19, 2006 10:59 AM  
**Subject:** FW: Hood Canal Update

John,

I received this information from my mother. If somebody wants to discuss with them further, you can do so at 360.275.8782 or 206.780.3665.

Kurt Fritts  
 Political Director  
 Washington Conservation Voters  
[kurt@wcvoters.org](mailto:kurt@wcvoters.org)  
 206.910.8777  
[www.wcvoters.org](http://www.wcvoters.org)

----- Forwarded Message

**From:** Susan Fritts <sdfritts@comcast.net>  
**Date:** Wed, 19 Jul 2006 10:41:35 -0700  
**To:** Kurt Fritts <kurt@wcvoters.org>  
**Subject:** Re: Hood Canal Update

Kurt,

Dad and I saw a pod of Orcas in the Hood Canal a few years ago. We were traveling along the dirt single lane road to Dewatto when we sighted them. Can't remember how many and I don't know if they were salmon or seal eating orca. We pulled over and watched them for a few minutes. If you need more information, call us at the canal although we'll be home Saturday and Sunday. Love, Mom

----- Original Message -----

7/27/2006



## **Tom and Margo**

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**From:** "Tom and Margo" <tmwyckoff@comcast.net>  
**To:** "Tom & Margo Wyckoff" <tmwyckoff@comcast.net>  
**Cc:** "Kirie Pedersen" <eagle@olypen.com>; "David Bain" <dbain@u.washington.edu>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 04, 2006 2:55 PM  
**Subject:** Gardzalewsky, Kit, interview re orca on Hood Canal

I spoke with Kit Gardzalewsky yesterday who is a 61 yr old retired govt worker who lives at 10923 Warren Rd, Silverdale, tel 360 692 8705.

He indicates he saw a group of 14 "transients" in Sep 2005 on 4 different occasions. One observation was of them blowing at night. Another time, he saw the group of 14 from his house on the east side of the canal near the Lone Rock area, they were "catching salmon and tossing them around," and were heading south. Ten days later he saw them at Pulali Point in Dabob where he was fishing; there were coho salmon around as well as seals. Five days later he reports seeing them back over on the east side of the canal near Lone Rock "playing and eating salmon". He thinks this group was eating both seals and salmon.

He also reports seeing a single male about 60-80 ft off shore cruising south yearly from 1984-1989 in Sept -Nov. time period.

Kit will be coming to the meeting with NOAA at our house on Aug 10.

8/4/2006

## Tom and Margo

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**From:** "Tom and Margo" <tmwyckoff@comcast.net>  
**To:** "Tom & Margo Wyckoff" <tmwyckoff@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 24, 2006 1:42 PM  
**Subject:** Fw: Georgie George sightings - Big Beef Station

Geordie George, Manager, Big Beef Station, (U.W. School of Fisheries), Seabeck, Hood Canal, Washington  
 Telephone - (work) 360- 692-9227  
 (home) 360-4970

Geordie is age 53 and grew up on Maple Beach, Stavis Bay which is in the vicinity of the the Big Beef Station, Seabeck Washington. Stavis Bay faces west to the mountains and Brinnon. He has been the Manager of Big Beef for decades.

He is anxious to help and you can phone him at work or at home over the weekend or at night. He says he will be gone on Sunday during the day.

This is his verbal report:

He recalls seeing S.R. orca YEARLY from the 50's to the mid 70's; mostly in Feb. and March associated with the massive herring spawn in Jackson Cove which is near Pulali Point in Dabob Bay. He saw groups of a dozen or so, breaching and jumping presumably chasing the blackmouth salmon that were feeding on the herring. At night he and others heard the whales blowing.

In 1976 there was a phenomenal herring run in the Canal with herring "so thick the seagulls were walking across the herring's backs" and the ocean boats came in and harvested massive quantities of them. However the herring were not fished out - they are still here, and there still is a herring spawn in Jackson Cove in Feb. and March when they lay their eggs on the rocks. They still attract blackmouth in the early spring.

From the 50' into the 70's there were relatively few sea lions and seals in the Canal until the marine mammal protection act prevented their being harvested or shot by humans. Geordie remembers from the 50' into the 70's everyone carried a shotgun in their boat to shoot seals and sea lions because they were competing for the salmon. "You had to have a nose" to get your \$5.00 bounty which was paid by the state. As a result there were relatively few seals and sea lions in the Canal before the 90's; (Geordie's inference here is that the orca he saw were not transients). After the Marine Mammal Protection Act, and the proliferation and repopulation of seals and sea lions in the Canal the salmon runs dwindled and there were fewer S.R. orca in the Canal.

The local warning about waterskiing in the summer (early chum run) during from the 50's to the 70's was to stay within the buoys because if you didn't you could find yourself in the middle of a pod.

Geordie George will talk with his mother who still lives on Maple Beach (she has lived there for 90 years) and also will talk with Andy Rogers a local institution and pioneer who is a 90 something and get back to us. He is really anxious to help and is very supportive of Hood Canal being included in the critical habitat area.

He confirms that his friend Earl Sande (who has sent us a report of his sightings already) is an excellent historian of marine life on the Canal. Earle is on the Board of Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement and Geordie was one of the founders of this organization. Earl's friend Larry Foster from Belfair ( we will get his phone number and contact him) harvested herring in the 60's and would be a good person to talk with. Larry often caught blackmouth salmon in his herring net. Another contact we will persue at Geordie's suggestion is Kari Koski, the daughter of a hightschool friend Kay Koske who used to work with NOAA and also with the Big Beef Hatchery. Kari grew up on the Canal and worked for many years at the Whale Museum in Friday Harbor. We don't know if she is still there but will inquire as to a contact number for her.

7/24/2006

## **Tom and Margo**

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**From:** "Tom and Margo" <tmwyckoff@comcast.net>  
**To:** "David Bain" <dbain@u.washington.edu>; "Kirie Pedersen" <eagle@olympen.com>; "Kathy Fletcher" <kfletcher@pugetsound.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 31, 2006 11:35 AM  
**Subject:** phone interview with Ron Hirschi

Mr. Ron Hirschi (360-379-1729) is a salmon biologist, author, educator, and naturalist who grew up on Hood Canal (Pt. Gamble) and has worked in association with the Pt. Gamble S'Klallam over the years. He currently lives on Marrowstone Island. He reports seeing s.r. orca in Pt. Gamble Bay "constantly" in the 60's and 70's and has observed them elsewhere in the Canal. He has field notes regarding orca presence in the 70's when he worked as a salmon biologist and reports seeing a group of them feeding in very shallow water (perhaps transients) at the mouth of the Skokomish River three years ago.

---

Ron Hirschi  
Biologist  
Field Notes

50

KILLER WHALES

12 AUG 77 Light Air, ~85°

5:00pm Brenda is out rowing with swimmer riding the bow - sees whales out in front of the house

To 5:15pm We watch from house -

Counted no more than 6 at surface at one time - didn't seem to be any more than that.

2 large males w/ 4 smaller whales moving North, side by side.

We watch til they're nearing South Point at ~ mid-Canal.

5:30-6:20pm From Hood Canal Bridge East side:

Whales are between S. Point and the bridge when we first spotted they were in two groups

one nearer west side of Canal just North of S. Point off Southern entrance to Squamish Harbor

other about 1/4 mile to 1/2 mile from East shore of Canal across from S. Point

The group on east side moves to about midcanal and is apparently joined by others.

A boat has been circling them often at high speed.

HIRSCHI, RON

One group forms and swims side by side  
now at mid canal (High count at this  
point = 11; 3 large males with 7-8+  
"smaller")

→ They make occasional dives varying from 10  
secs. to 2-3 minutes (largest dive of  
approx 2 1/2-3 minutes as 2 boats approach  
and pass from N. to South which brought  
them to within ~200 yds of bridge)  
2-3 times they separated to distances of  
100-150 yds w/ 1 group of 3-5 including  
1 large male other of 6-8 w/ 1 or 2  
large males.

Regroup again, heading generally in direction  
of H. Canal Bridge. About 3/4 mile from bridge  
3 or 4 times single whales would reach out  
of water ( ) head out up to  
pectorals w/ ventral surface towards bridge

made the long dive to within ~200 yds of  
bridge. One "medium" size with ~3 foot  
dorsal slapped water w/ tail 8 times  
while facing bridge.  
Within 2-3 minutes all down, coming up  
on N. side of bridge (85 secs. from  
last sighting to first sighting on other side)

Best view of size as they  
surface on N side of bridge  
one very small - at least  $\frac{1}{2}$   
size of others (assume it's a young  
of year)

Note that there are 3 large males  
all others w/ dorsal  $\frac{1}{2}$  length or smaller  
than largest male. (No marks noted on  
dorsal although one has vertical or  
slightly forward tilted dorsal)

Drive to Salisbury Point

6:30-6:40 View from Salisbury Pt. Country Park

Whales off the island - paralleling shore -  
perhaps 200 yds out. One large male  
tail slaps once.

Good perspective of height of dorsal  
which appears to be as high as  
tallest person standing in skiboat.  
near the whales (talked to the  
people afterwards - their estimate was  
4-6 feet for the two larger ones  
they saw - also thought one must  
have been a baby.)

6:40 They round Whiskey Spit and are  
out of sight.

6:50 None visible - head of Hood Canal North  
of bridge

13-15 Feb 79

PFP1

Stormy weather - Nature fights back & removes the Hood Canal Bridge!

On 14th. Ben watched at least 7 Killer whales in front of house - jumping completely out of the water, falling on their backs - at the Bridge they swam right through - (from 11:30 - 1:00)  
 14th - 9am an adult - Bald - flew to other side  
 15th - 10:30 am an adult Bald flew toward Thornyke from mid Canal.

Don Hirschi



Illustration by Tammy Yee:

Swimming with Humuhumu

Margo

Here's a copy of what I sent to David.

My wife and I were trying to remember other dates and narrowed down one evening observation you might enjoy.

I remember it being either November or December because I was out wading for crabs in front of our house and I always went out for them as holiday feast food. So, it was dark and I heard whales fairly close and went up to the house. My wife came down to the beach with her flute and played for a while. An old friend was staying with us and he picked up rocks and clicked them together.....we all, whales, friends and family enjoyed one another for quite a while.

As my Hawai'ian friends say, Malama I ke Kai (Protect the ocean as you would your family)

1977/78



## **Tom and Margo**

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**From:** "Tom and Margo" <tmwyckoff@comcast.net>  
**To:** "David Bain" <dbain@u.washington.edu>; "Kirie Pedersen" <eagle@olypen.com>; "Kathy Fletcher" <kfletcher@pugetsound.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, July 21, 2006 11:28 AM  
**Subject:** Sighting from Bill Kalina, Navy National Resources Manager, Westsound Region: Navy

Tom talked with Bill Kalina, National Resource Manager; West sound Region for the Navy and also is the Navy regional liason to the Tribes.  
He works on Indian Island. Telephone 360-396-5353.

He reported two personal sightings of a group of 6 to 10 orca seen during May of two separate years in the early 1980's. They were viewed from Bangor and were traveling along the Toanodos Penninsula. He does not know what they were feeding upon.

He was recently called by Dave Herrera, Fisheries Director for the Skokomish (whom we have talked with on several occasions) to ask about S.R. orca in the Canal.

He checked the "marine mammals file" for the Bangor site dating back to the late 70's and found no documented sightings. However, he is sure S.R. orca were seen by personnel but not documented as there was not a "high level of concern" for orca then.

Margo and Tom

7/24/2006

## **Tom and Margo**

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**From:** "Tom and Margo" <tmwyckoff@comcast.net>  
**To:** "Tom & Margo Wyckoff" <tmwyckoff@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 24, 2006 1:52 PM  
**Subject:** Fw: Louis Lakenes written response to David Bain Questions

**From:** [compassrose@express56.com](mailto:compassrose@express56.com)  
**To:** [kirie.pedersen@olypen.com](mailto:kirie.pedersen@olypen.com)  
**Sent:** Saturday, July 08, 2006 5:53 PM  
**Subject:** [Fwd: Re: here are the whale questions I need ASAP]

1950's through 1980's ORCA IN HOOD CANAL QUESTIONS:

Your name, address, phone, email: Louis E. Lakenes P.O. Box 448 Brinnon, WA 98320 (360) 796-3340

[compassrose@express56.com](mailto:compassrose@express56.com)

Years you recall seeing Orca in Hood Canal (not counting the recent viewings of the transient pod in 2000-2003)

1961, 1962, 1963-1967, 1983

Months or seasons you saw Orca?

May, June of 1963, May, June of 1983.

(I saw them other years between 1961-2 thru 1967, but not really sure of the months or specifics for those years) 1963 and 1983 stand out because 1963 was my 1st year commercial shrimping, and 1983 I had a friend from Oregon with me when I commercial shrimped.

Do you remember group sizes, or how many adult males, adult female-sized whales, or calves were present?

Group size 1963 was 21 total, not sure of sizes, they all seemed to be pretty close in size. Group size in 1983 was more than 10 (didn't get actual count because we had boat problems and friend was scared)

Were you looking for whales everyday or what was the context within which you did see whales?

No. We were commercial shrimping.

Were you watching from shore or from a boat?

Boat, and several times from shore. (My Mom and Dad ran an oyster plant and we lived within feet of the high-tide line)

Can you describe their behavior at all?

7/24/2006

They were just breaking water and their backs were coming completely out of the water. They were traveling the same direction as we were and came close to the boat ( my boat was actually amid them several times ) then they would swim off heading south. They didn't seem to be bothered by us at all in fact would circle us several times before leaving)

How far offshore were they?

Approximately 3/4 mile from shore. ( in the middle of Dabob Bay between the head of Dabob Bay and Broadspit).

What did their blows sound like?

Somewhat short sprays sounding close to a semi releasing his air tanks but not as loud.

Did you see them eat or chase anything?

No

How did birds act around them?

I don't recall any birds at all

Did they ever make calls while they were floating at the surface?

No

When you stopped seeing them, was it because you stopped looking, or did you eventually realize you hadn't seen them for a while?

Just realized they were gone. I wouldn't see them every day, but off and on during a couple weeks, perhaps 3-4 times in 2 weeks.

I never thought of taking pictures because it was common to see the Orcas and never thought at the time they would not keep coming around.

Just took it for granted they would. They seemed just to be a part of the environment.

--Louis E. Lakenes

## Tom and Margo

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**From:** "Kirie Pedersen" <kirie.pedersen@olypen.com>  
**To:** "Tom and Margo" <tmwyckoff@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 29, 2006 11:59 AM  
**Subject:** More testimony on orca and Hood Canal

Hi Margo,

Last night I interviewed Louie Lakeness. He gives permission to have his name used. He lives in Brinnon. He is second generation; his parents settled here around 1948.

Louie was in the shrimp business from 1982 to 1988 intermittently, then in the oyster business until two years ago.

He grew up on the water here on Hood Canal, and is a boater.

Louie states the following about Orca in Hood Canal: A pod of 20-26 whales occurred here around the months of May, June, July from the Sixties through the Seventies. During the Eighties, a pod of 6-8 Orca occurred here during those same months.

In 1986 and in 2005, a single Orca with a "notched fin" came in around Broad Spit.

Louie and his wife Robin Foss (a skipper, also constantly on the water in boats from the Sixties onward in Hood Canal) "probably" have pictures as well.

Please forward this information to whomever you are contacting to document whale occurrence in Hood Canal.

The Lakeness family states that they believe we should persist in identifying Hood Canal as Orca habitat; that the Hood Canal bridge and Navy activity did not impact the pod from coming in; and that they believe the transients should also be identified as threatened.

They cited the positive effect of the transient incursion on the seal and sea lion population, which had grown way out of proportion in Hood Canal and caused a variety of problems.

As Robin Foss is a skipper for the US Navy as a civilian, she might be likely to know information related to the bridge and sonar, although I did not ask her anything specific about Navy operations.

Thank you for your on-going interest in preservation of Orca and of Hood Canal.

Warm regards,

Kirie

7/25/2006

## **Tom and Margo**

---

**From:** "Tom and Margo" <tmwyckoff@comcast.net>  
**To:** "David Bain" <dbain@u.washington.edu>; "Kirie Pedersen" <eagle@olypen.com>; "Kathy Fletcher" <kfletcher@pugetsound.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 26, 2006 9:51 PM  
**Subject:** Hood Canal Sighting

This sighting report was fiven to Dr. Margo Wyckoff by Porf. Bill Matchett who resides at Nelita, Hood Canal. Bill is a retired UW professor of english and is past president of Hood Canal Environmental Council.

"When we bought our waterfront house in the 1960's, we rented it to a visiting professor for the year. He and his wife told us of a pod of whales which came close into shore while feeding on salmon. They seemed to get "caught" in the shallows and had to wait for a high tide in order to swim back out to mid channel. Prof. Matchett thinks there were more than eight whales in the group.

7/26/2006

## **Tom and Margo**

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**From:** "Michael McGoodwin" <mcm@mcgoodwin.net>  
**To:** "Tom Wyckoff" <tmwyckoff@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 08, 2006 2:12 PM  
**Subject:** Orcas

Hi Tom,

Nice to talk to you.

Here are my relevant notes, which I hand wrote and later transcribed into our computerized log of travels and visits to our cabin.

This is the only time we have seen wild orcas in the Puget Sound/Hood Canal area.

Let's do lunch someday. We'd like to hear more about all the good stuff you guys have been doing.

Best wishes,

Mike

---

[Log entry dated 7/2/87 and visit probably extending to 7/6/87]

... Snorkeled with wet suits ... Visibility around 12-18 feet...

For the first time in the Northwest, we saw a pod of killer whales. There were 6-8 members ranging from calves to large adults with tall dorsal fins. Used binocs and telescope to observe them as they passed 1 to 1 1/2 miles away [from our house southeast of the mouth of the Hood Canal] north up the Hood Canal to its mouth and out of sight. They were traveling steadily--we watched them for 10-15 minutes.

... Last 2-3 days of 5 day stay, weather turned cool and cloudy with intermittent rain, temps around 65-70.

8/8/2006

## **Tom and Margo**

---

**From:** "Tom and Margo" <tmwyckoff@comcast.net>  
**To:** "Tom & Margo Wyckoff" <tmwyckoff@comcast.net>  
**Cc:** "David Bain" <dbain@u.washington.edu>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 08, 2006 11:33 AM  
**Subject:** Orca Testimony, Orrin Nelson

On July 14, 2006 I talked on the telephone with Orrin Nelson of Kitsap Marina in Port Orchard, tel 360-895-2193, whose name I got from Scott Patterson. Mr Nelson ran a commercial herring fishery near the Hood Canal Bridge in the 1970's. He recalls seeing a single orca chasing some herring near his nets one summer in the 1970's.

8/8/2006

## **Tom and Margo**

---

**From:** "Kirie Pedersen" <kirie.pedersen@olypen.com>  
**To:** <tmwyckoff@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 23, 2006 4:22 PM  
**Subject:** Whales in Hood Canal

Hi Margo,

It was great to hear from you today. I hope we get to talk again and to meet.

Yes indeed there were resident whales in Hood Canal. I was born here in 1951, and we spent weekends and summers here until the 70's, when my parents moved back full-time. I was in college by then.

The resident whales were common, as I recall. They would "follow" us when we were in our small sailboat, the Rob Roy. They are in our home movies from that period.

I will ask my parents how often they saw them during those years, as they were here full-time and I was off at college and graduate school, just visiting when I could.

I've lived back here full-time since 1988.

If there is any kind of documentation or statement we can sign and send or email to anyone specific, please let us know. I will also try to get the video of the old home movies transferred onto DVD and somehow get a "cut" of the whale parts so nobody has to watch an hour of Pedersen home movies to see a few minutes of whale!

Again, thanks for getting in contact. Feel free to provide my contact information to anyone.

Kirie Pedersen  
[eagle@olypen.com](mailto:eagle@olypen.com)  
360 796 4532

360 316 9066 - mobile - "Verizen family" i.e. free to other Verizen customers for me - not sure for you!

7/25/2006



## **Tom and Margo**

---

**From:** "Kirie Pedersen" <kirie.pedersen@olypen.com>  
**To:** <rich@whalemuseum.org>  
**Cc:** "Kathy Fletcher PeoplePugetSound" <kfletcher@pugetsound.org>; "Tom and Margo" <tmwyckoff@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 28, 2006 1:28 PM  
**Subject:** Orca in Hood Canal during and before Seventies

My parents, John and Marilyn Pedersen, have lived here on Dabob Bay since 1946. I joined them in 1951. We recollect an Orca pod with all ages of Orca that we saw frequently in or around the Seventies.

This Orca pod is documented by photographs taken by marine biologists then with the Point Whitney Shellfish Lab. We have copies of those photographs.

The pod is also documented in family home movies from close range, as the pod sometimes "accompanied" our wooden sailboat as we traveled by wind in Dabob Bay.

I am attempting to get the clips of footage of the Orca pod extracted from the rest of the video.

Once I review this footage, I can pinpoint the year(s) more accurately.

I can also ask Hal Beaty, retired marine biologist from Point Whitney. He was there, working in and around Dabob Bay, for 30 years. He lives in Brinnon. Point Whitney Shellfish station may indeed retain additional documentation.

Meanwhile, I will have copies made of the photos.

Is there anyone in particular to whom my parents and I should send testimony about the Orca pod in or around the Seventies?

Thank you.

Kirie Pedersen, MA  
687 Pulali Point Road  
Brinnon, WA 98320  
360 796 4532  
[eagle@olypen.com](mailto:eagle@olypen.com)

7/25/2006



J-Pod, Dabob Bay 1973.

Identified by Dave Bain

**Tom and Margo**

---

**From:** "Tom and Margo" <tmwyckoff@comcast.net>  
**To:** "Tom & Margo Wyckoff" <tmwyckoff@comcast.net>  
**Cc:** "Kirie Pedersen" <eagle@olypen.com>; "David Bain" <dbain@u.washington.edu>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 04, 2006 2:32 PM  
**Subject:** Rebholz, Bud, Orca observations in Hood Canal

Bud is a 92 yr old 30-yr resident of upper Dabob Bay in the Broadspit area, tel 360-765-3805. His name was given to us by Judy Dickson, "the whale lady" of Hood Canal who documented the presence of Transient orca in Hood Canal in 2003 and 2005.

Bud saw the 2005 transient pod consisting of two cows and two calves almost daily from his home for a period of 13 weeks, morning, evening and heard their blows at night. Saw them "playing with seals". He and a neighbor also witnessed an "orca - octopus row" involving this same group of whales, which was written up in the Kitsap Sun by Christopher Dunagin; the whales thrashed around on the surface, acting up, bumping and standing on their tails over a one hour period; the next day he and a neighbor found the carcass of a giant octopus with 6 or 7 ft arms washed up on their beach.

After he moved in to his home on Dabob in 1976, he recalls seeing groups of up to 8 or 9 orca at least yearly up to about the mid 1980's, less frequently after that. He can't recall the exact time of year he would see them but thinks it was when salmon were around. He recalls one instance when a group of several bulls, cows and calves were heading south along his shore and approached to within 10 ft. of his neighbor who was out in a rowboat at the time. He suggests we call his neighbor, Mark Sears, who has a summer place near him, and who is the superintendant of Lincoln Park in Seattle, which I indicated I would do.

He is in the process of moving into a condo in Sequim (22 Anchor Cove Lane, Sequim, 98382) but it sounds as though he and his daughter, Diane Hazeman, will be around his Dabob place for a while.

8/4/2006

## **Tom and Margo**

---

**From:** "Tom and Margo" <tmwyckoff@comcast.net>  
**To:** "David Bain" <dbain@u.washington.edu>  
**Cc:** "Kirie Pedersen" <kirie.pedersen@olypen.com>; "Kathy Fletcher" <kfletcher@pugetsound.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 24, 2006 6:49 PM  
**Subject:** Hood Canal Historical Sightings

We just talked with Andrew "Andy" Rogers, who is in his mid-nineties and has lived on Hood Canal for all of his life. He is a recreational fisher, and owns a major tract of land in Stavis Bay, Hood Canal. He has been a generous donor of land to the Kitsap County Land Trust and is revered as one of the most important historians of Hood Canal. Andy is a "living national treasure". He has given us permission to send this report to NOAA and is eager to attend a meeting of NOAA officials if they are willing to come to Hood Canal to take oral testimony. He is too elderly to go to Seattle for a meeting, although he does still drive short distances here.

Andy's address is: 19275 NW Stavis Bay Road, Seabeck, Wa. 98383, and his telephone number is (360) 830-5511.

Andy has lived on the shoreline of Stavis Bay, Hood Canal since 1919. He remembers seeing and hearing S.R. orca every year until the last ten years or so. He sates that they came into the Canal after salmon every year in pods; numbering as many as 30 to 40 whales. He saw them feeding during the day and could hear them blowing at twilight. He remembers seeing them in April and May "going after the spring King which schooled up before spawning around the Dosiwallops River. He also remembers seeing them around Labor Day when Stavis Creek was full of salmon.

He also thinks that the main reason the S.R. orca ceased coming into Hood Canal on a regular basis was because of the explosive seal population which occurred after the Marine Mammal Protection Act precluded harvesting seals. He thinks that the transient orca "have done a good job on the seals" and hopes that the salmon and the S.R. orca will flourish in Hood Canal again. He wholeheartedly supports that NOAA include Hood Canal in its proposed protection area.

7/24/2006

----- Original Message -----

From:

Tom and Margo

Sent: Wednesday, July 12, 2006 1:39

PM

To: EARL SANDE

Subject: Re: orcas-Earl Sande

Earle - see article in Kitsap Sun today. PBS is doing an interview with us and mostly David Bain orca researcher from the Friday Harbor Labs today. Can we reference your sightings during the interview. May I read your letter which is so great. Margo

----- Original Message -----

From:

EARL

SANDE

To: tmwyckoff@comcast.net

Sent: Monday, July 10, 2006 8:58

PM

Subject: orcas-Earl Sande

Tom & Margo, I grew up in Tahuya starting in 1954. I clearly remember back during Oct. 1963 watching about 60 killer whales swim by Three Sisters Point. The Canal was full of salmon that fall, in fact my mom took five random pictures of the Canal and from one to five salmon were in each frame. When the orcas swam by many salmon were swimming just a few feet from shore. Also that fall I saw many orcas feeding on salmon on the Tahuya River flats one day, some coming nearly out of the water, it was quite a sight!

Earl  
Sande

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earle sande

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**Tom and Margo**

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**From:** "EARL SANDE" <earlsande@msn.com>  
**To:** <tmwyckoff@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 10, 2006 8:58 PM  
**Subject:** orcas-Earl Sande

Tom & Margo, I grew up in Tahuya starting in 1954. I clearly remember back during Oct. 1963 watching about 60 killer whales swim by Three Sisters Point. The Canal was full of salmon that fall, in fact my mom took five random pictures of the Canal and from one to five salmon were in each frame. When the orcas swam by many salmon were swimming just a few feet from shore. Also that fall I saw many orcas feeding on salmon on the Tahuya River flats one day, some coming nearly out of the water, it was quite a sight!

Earl Sande

*Board Member  
Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement  
Group*

7/27/2006

**Tom and Margo**

---

**From:** "Tom and Margo" <tmwyckoff@comcast.net>  
**To:** "Tom & Margo Wyckoff" <tmwyckoff@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 24, 2006 1:53 PM  
**Subject:** Fw: 1975 sighting

**From:** Tom and Margo  
**To:** David Bain  
**Cc:** Kirie Pedersen  
**Sent:** Monday, July 17, 2006 7:53 PM  
**Subject:** 1975 sighting

We have verbal confirmation of a sighting in Seabeck Bay in 1975 by a neighbor Kurt Schnuit (robinandkurt@wavecable.net). He heard the pod blow in the early morning and although he cannot remember exact numbers, he thinks it was over four whales - in fact, much larger. Unfortunately it was still twilight when he heard them and went outside, so he cannot speak to physical details or numbers - just said it was a "big pod". As he was a kid then he is contacting his mother who still lives nearby to see if she has more recollections.

He will also contact some "old timers" who gather at the Seabeck store every morning for coffee and old stories. He will get back to us within the next 48 hours with any info he gets.

Also, I called Georgie George whom we know, who is the manager of the UW Big Beef Salmon Hatchery just down the road. He also grew up here, and although he was not home tonight or tomorrow, his wife said that she knows he probably saw S.R. orca when he was growing up here on the water. That would probably have been in the 70's and later as he is in his forties. Dave, his phone number is 360-692-4970. He won't be able to reach me until Wed. afternoon when we are back at Lone Rock (have to go to Seattle tomorrow for long medical test. which will knock me out or at the least make me loopy for awhile. If you want to talk with him tomorrow, go ahead and make the call in my stead, otherwise I will chat him up on Wed. pm. He would be a most credible witness as he is in charge of all the hatchery efforts on both king and silver restoration.

Margo

7/24/2006

## **Tom and Margo**

---

**From:** "Tom and Margo" <tmwyckoff@comcast.net>  
**To:** "Tom & Margo Wyckoff" <tmwyckoff@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 09, 2006 3:12 PM  
**Subject:** orca sightings Ester Starceovich

"in the summers we always saw the pods of orca going down the channel, and feeding close in off of Kings Spit".

" I have also seen a single whale of f Kings Spit in the last couple of years."

Ester was born in Jefferson County and then moved to where she presently lives on Kings Spit.

She has served on the Board of Hood Canal Environmental Council and Oversee, a citizen's oversight group working with the Navy on base cleanup.

8/9/2006



# ROCK POINT OYSTER CO. INC.

PACIFIC OYSTER SEED & MANILA CLAM FARM

**Tom Pepper,  
Farm Manager**

1611 Dabob P. O. Road  
Quilcene, WA 98376  
(360) 765-4664  
Fax (360) 765-3676  
e-mail: pepper@olypen.com



**R. N. Steele,  
President**

(360) 765-3765  
e-mail: rpoco@olypen.com

July 18, 2006

Hood Canal Orca Assn.  
Attn: Tom Wychoff  
P. O. Box 5761  
Bremerton, WA 98376

Dear Tom,

As I mentioned to you on the telephone, I have had the good fortune of spending most of my summer months in Tarboo Bay, since my discharge in November of 1945. Tarboo Bay is the very shallow bay at the North end of Dabob Bay, Inside of Long Spit.

Sometime in the late Summer of the 1950's, I observed several large Orca Whales outside of Tarboo on the Eastern side just outside of the shallows of the bay. We could see two or more large fins displayed. I did not go near them but mentioned this to my neighbor, Bill Eldridge. He told me at that time that he had seen them before.

This was my only sighting in Dabob Bay of Orca Whales, but I assumed that this was not an uncommon sight.

Sincerely yours,

Richard N. Steele

Resident Orcas Sightings in Hood Canal  
Drs. Margo and Tom Wyckoff  
[TMWyckoff@comcast.net](mailto:TMWyckoff@comcast.net)  
4415 52<sup>nd</sup>. Ave. NE  
Seattle, Wa. 98105  
206-522-3133 (Seattle)  
360-522-3133 (Hood Canal)

August, 1958

I was fishing with friends in a small boat near the mouth of Pt. Gamble Bay, Hood Canal in the early morning. A pod of twelve or more swam very close to our boat, and fed off the salmon. We could see them with fish in their mouths. The salmon and the baitfish were very plentiful. We watched them for thirty minutes or so, and then knowing we were not going to pull in any fish with the whales nearby, we went ashore.

Late August, 1974

We were camping on Misery Point, Seabeck Bay, Hood Canal with the intent of going fishing for salmon in the early morning. We awoke to the sound of whales blowing, and saw a pod of more than 6 to 10 whales swimming just west of Misery Point. We had come up to Seabeck, where we had an unimproved lot on Misery Point, because our neighbors had told us there was good fishing so we surmised that the orcas had come in chasing the salmon run.

After our sighting we talked with "old timers" who live in the area and they corroborated that resident orcas had regularly come in to Seabeck for as long as they could remember. They also had heard and seen the same pod we saw. The noise created by their blowing was easily heard up and down the beach.

Early September, 1988

We were traveling by small boat (20 ft. outboard) just off Hood Head at the north end of Hood Canal when we saw a pod of about ten whales. We turned the motor off and they passed within one hundred feet of the boat. We had seen evidence of salmon in the area, so we suspected the whales were feeding. As we watched, one whale suddenly came toward our boat and dove underneath, turning over as it did so that we could see the clear orca markings on its belly. It was very close to the underside of our boat but did not bump us. Swimming away, the whale rejoined the rest of the pod and they swam south.

Early December, 1995

Early in the morning just after dawn, I heard the sound of whales blowing and went outside. I sighted a pod of about eight to ten whales swimming down the midchannel of Hood Canal just off Fisherman's Cove, Toandos Peninsula. They went around the point into Dabob Bay. I assumed they were feeding on the fall chum run. Because I had not seen them for some years, I called the biologist at Pt. Whitney Lab and he told me they were probably the S.R. orca as he had heard they "were around".

## Tom and Margo

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**From:** "Unger Shaari M KPWA" <unger@kpt.nuwc.navy.mil>  
**To:** "Tom and Margo" <tmwyckoff@comcast.net>  
**Cc:** "David Bain" <dbain@u.washington.edu>; "Jennings Diane M KPWA" <jenningsdm@kpt.nuwc.navy.mil>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 30, 2006 9:45 AM  
**Subject:** RE: Fw: orca photos and footage in Hood Canal, WA

Hello,

The sounds are no longer on the web, but you can request a CD from our NAVSEA Keyport Public Affairs Officer, Ms. Diane Jennings. She'll need to know an address to send it to.

Her contact information is as follows: Phone:(360) 396-2699. E-mail address: [kptPAO@kpt.nuwc.navy.mil](mailto:kptPAO@kpt.nuwc.navy.mil).

Have a good day,

Respectfully,

Shaari Unger :)

NAVSEA Keyport

-----Original Message-----

From: Tom and Margo [mailto:[tmwyckoff@comcast.net](mailto:tmwyckoff@comcast.net)]  
Sent: Thursday, June 29, 2006 7:30 PM  
To: David Bain; [unger@kpt.nuwc.navy.mil](mailto:unger@kpt.nuwc.navy.mil)  
Subject: Re: Fw: orca photos and footage in Hood Canal, WA

Dear Shaari and Dave:

Thank you so much for bringing this recording to our attention. Unfortunately, it does not come up on the website you provided - all I get is a notice that the page cannot be found. Is there another way I can find it?

You have both been so incredibly helpful. Our gratitude for your time and interest is immense.

Dr. Margo Wyckoff

----- Original Message -----

From: "David Bain" <[dbain@u.washington.edu](mailto:dbain@u.washington.edu)>  
To: "Tom and Margo" <[tmwyckoff@comcast.net](mailto:tmwyckoff@comcast.net)>  
Sent: Thursday, June 29, 2006 5:56 PM

7/25/2006

Subject: Re: Fw: orca photos and footage in Hood Canal, WA

> Margo,

>

> The e-mail address I have for Shaari Unger is

>

> [unger@kpt.nuwc.navy.mil](mailto:unger@kpt.nuwc.navy.mil)

>

> --Dave

>

> P.S.

>

> An e-mail from Shaari is below, to give you a little background on

> what

> she does.

>

> A recording of Orcinus orca, killer whale, vocalizations from Dabob

> Bay ,

> Hood Canal, Washington is being made available for informational and  
> educational purposes.

>

>

>

> The recording is available on the following website:

> <http://www-keyport.kpt.nuwc.navy.mil/WhaleRecordings.htm>

>

>

>

>

>

> This recording of six orcas is from 10 February 2005. These orcas are  
> known to be part of the "west coast transient" stock that ranges between  
> the coastal waters of SE Alaska and California. These particular animals  
> have been most frequently documented in SE Alaska and British Columbia.  
> This group is comprised of two adult females (T71 and T124A, both more  
> than 20 years old), each with two offspring - one older offspring per  
> female (T71A ~ 10 years, T124A1 ~ 9 years)) and one younger offspring per  
> female (T71B and T124A2, both around 5 years).

>

> These two "matrilines" have not always been seen in association with  
> each

> other. These particular animals have a tendency not to vocalize. The  
> animals vocalizing in proximity to a bottom moored hydrophone array  
> operated by the Navy provided an opportunity for recording unique  
> vocalizations which will increase the body of knowledge surrounding these  
> animals.

>

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>

>

7/25/2006

>  
> As a standard operating procedure, the Navy does not conduct active  
> acoustic operations in the presence of whales at any NAVSEA Keyport test  
> ranges. The Dabob Bay Range Site is staffed during normal working hours  
> by NAVSEA Keyport. Our range operators are trained by NOAA to identify  
> marine mammals.  
>  
>  
>  
> The point of contact for the recording is NAVSEA Keyport Public  
> Affairs  
> Officer, (360) 396-2699. The e-mail address is [kptPAO@kpt.nuwc.navy.mil](mailto:kptPAO@kpt.nuwc.navy.mil).  
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> v/r  
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> Shaari Unger :)  
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# The Port Gamble S'KLALLAM TRIBE



## Home Welcome

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**Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe**  
**Port Gamble S'Klallam Reservation,**  
**Kingston, Washington**

*The Port Gamble S'Klallam Reservation is located on the northern tip of the Kitsap Peninsula in Washington State. It is situated on Port Gamble Bay, for generations an important natural resource for Native Americans. The Port Gamble S'Klallam Indian Tribe has been increasing its interaction with its neighbors in the North Kitsap area, making it known that it is concerned about issues related to growth, water resources and land use. By expressing these concerns and working with members of the surrounding communities the Tribe is taking its rightful place as a responsible citizen and custodian of the natural resources surrounding its home.*

*There are 29 federally recognized Indian Tribes in Washington State. The population of the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe is currently just over 1,000 enrolled tribal members. About half the tribal members reside on the reservation, along with other Native Americans and non-Indians. Altogether they comprise the total reservation population of 932.*

### The Tribe's fundamental philosophy:

**Sovereignty...**The Tribe protects and defends its status as a sovereign nation and reaffirms its right to self-governance and self-determination.

**Tribal Membership...**The Tribe desires to preserve its existence in perpetuity with a strong and self-reliant membership.

**Children...**The Tribe recognizes its responsibility to provide a safe and nurturing environment for its children and their families.



**The S'Klallam Sing**  
**perform in the n**  
**Longhouse for the l**  
**of Knowledge hon**  
**ceremony**

### Port Gamble S'Klallam Mission Statement

*The mission of the government of the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe is to improve the quality of life for all tribal members and to accomplish this through sound decision making. The Tribe considers future generations and the preservation and protection of our rich cultural heritage and natural resource enhancement of the environment.*

**Elders...**The Tribe values the contributions of its elders and recognizes its responsibility to ensure a comfortable and caring home for its elders and vulnerable adults.

**Justice...**The Tribe places a high value on the fundamental fairness implemented by a strong and impartial justice system supported by a highly qualified and culturally relevant law enforcement capacity.

**Housing...**The Tribe is committed to providing opportunities for Tribal Members to obtain safe and affordable housing.

**Education...**Educational opportunities for Tribal Members will continue to be the highest priority of the Tribe.

**Employment...**The Tribe recognizes and affirms the policy of assistance to Tribal Members to obtain meaningful employment and to ensure continual opportunities in their pursuit of fulfilling careers.

**Economics...**The Tribe believes in the development of a strong and stable economic climate in order to secure prosperity for the Tribal community.

**Culture...**The essence of the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe is rooted in its cultural heritage and the perpetuation of that heritage is a prime goal of the Tribe.

**Health...**The Tribe is dedicated to the principle of a strong people sustained by the Tribe's commitment to an outstanding program of health and human services.

**Natural Resources...**The Tribe believes that all peoples have the responsibility to protect and enhance the natural resources that have sustained the Tribe so well for thousands and thousands of years.

**Infrastructure...**The Tribe acknowledges its obligation to develop and maintain the basic infrastructures needed to provide a safe and pleasant community for its Members.

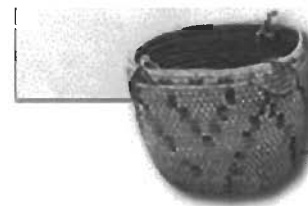
**The World Community...**The Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe takes its rightful place as a strong and valued member of the Indian Tribes, nations and peoples of the world.

*opportunities, and  
protection of trib.  
sovereignty throu,  
determining our own c*

#### Contact Info

Port Gamble S'Klallam T  
31912 Little Boston Roa  
Kingston, Washington 9

phone: 360/297-2646  
fax: 360/297-7097



Top of page right, Eagle  
Carved by Floyd Jones

Photographs of S'Klallam Canoe  
By Laura Price

**Top**

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# Canku Ota

(Many Paths)

An Online Newsletter Celebrating Native America

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## 'Bring Our Songs Out'

by Rachel Pritchett Sun Staff

credits: Trudy Marcellay of the Chehalis tribe played the drum Saturday with members of other tribes at the Port Gamble S'Klallam Night of Song. photo by Carolyn J. Yaschur

### *"Port Gamble Whale Song"*

*Listen, I hear my mother*

*Listen, I hear my father*

*Listen, I hear my grandparent*

*Listen, what's that? It's the Port Gamble killer whale returning*

*— Duane Pasco, 1990*

It was like a giant family reunion Saturday night when about 400 Native Americans from 19 canoe nations from Canada to Oregon converged on the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribal Center.

They had come to witness a historic moment as the tribe "brought out" its songs and accepted two long-lost canoe paddles.

After an enormous feast of salmon, venison and crab, the mood became somber as the sacred ceremony began.

Many dressed in traditional regalia of woven cedar vests, feathered hats and red button shawls and listened as Tribal Elder Oliver Jones and a large circle of drum-beating singers summoned ancestors in song.

Jones apologized to the ancestors for not preserving the ancient songs of the oral-tradition society when potlatches were outlawed.

"And now they are coming home," he said.

In the 1800s, S'Klallam canoe paddlers visiting the northernmost tribes of British Columbia and Alaska during potlatches sang songs to their hosts.



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**In the 1900s, when potlatches were outlawed, the northern tribes hung on to parts of the songs.**

**Growing up in Alaska, S'Klallam friend Duane Pasco of North Kitsap remembered some of them from his childhood and has written a collection of songs for the S'Klallams, who officially performed them Saturday.**

**"So they're grabbing bits and pieces, trying to reconstruct," Pasco said.**

**"This is a revival."**

**Four honored "witnesses" sat in special chairs during the ceremony, making sure the songs were performed in the right manner and remembering them for future generations. They included Guy Capoeman of the Quinaults, Connie McCloud of the Puyallups, Lester Green of Neah Bay and Edgar Charlie of the Ahousaht nation of British Columbia.**

**The songs are written in S'Klallam language and in Chinook jargon, a universal language once used by Indians, traders and missionaries.**

**Some simple, some complex, the songs became the property of a person or family. They were about trips made by the paddlers, killer whales (metaphors for the S'Klallam canoes), life and, or course, love.**

**After Tribal Chairman Ron Charles welcomed the crowd, he announced, "Bring our songs out."**

**Then began the evening of singing, drumming and dancing. A sea of red and black undulated across the tribal center as women dancers led by Francine Swift performed the traditional paddle dances.**

**Several at a time wielded paddles as they rhythmically made their way across the floor. Men took up song, beating the drums louder and louder until they suddenly stopped. Prayers in the native language and in English were said.**

**In one of the most stirring moments of the evening, Puyallup tribe member Raymond McCloud Sr. and his wheelchair-bound mother, Edith McCloud, presented the S'Klallams with two very old paddles, the only ones that old known to the tribe. No one knows for certain yet how old the small, pointed paddles are. They were found in 1959 in a shed on the reservation by Robert Brown of Tacoma and his father, Bill, as they were logging. They took the paddles home and forgot about them for decades until 1991, when Robert Brown rediscovered them.**

**He contacted the nearby Puyallup tribe, who presented the paddles to the S'Klallams Saturday night.**

**Tribal members hope to learn much from the original paddles, such as the material they were made of, their size and dimension. Brown attended the ceremony.**

**Accepting the paddles swathed in rich, red material and tied with cedar boughs were Ron**

**Charles and Tribal Elder Jake Jones. A tiny bell rang as the hushed crowd watched. Tribal elders held up the paddles for all to see, then women dancing to celebratory songs carried the paddles throughout the crowd.**

**The S'Klallams' renewed song effort began in 1989, when the tribe launched its 35-foot canoe Klumachun for a paddle to Seattle during the Washington centennial. Many paddles have taken place since then, and according to paddler Mary Jones, the next, to British Columbia, is slated for next summer. The need for songs has further grown as the tribal paddlers received more invitations to sing at other events.**

**Each of the 19 canoe nations who visited Saturday received a traditional in-person invitation from Tribal Elder George Jones, according to Mary Jones.**

**Song witness Capoeman explained, "When someone comes to you somewhere, you have to go there and help them any way you can."**

**Honored guests were given blankets, rare and historic cobalt blue trading beads, new paddles painted in the traditional red and black of the Little Boston tribe and S'Klallam baskets filled with fish and jam.**

**The Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe has about 300 enrolled members, according to Mary Jones. Construction of a longhouse is expected in a few days.**

**As for the future of the S'Klallam songs, Mary Jones will be teaching some of them to students at Wolfle Elementary School in Kingston in November, Native American Awareness Month.**

**On Thursday last week, Jake Jones sat at a stool carving in a shed near the tribal center as he listened to the S'Klallam songs on tape.**

**"It's something that's going to make a difference in our community," he said.**



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# SKOKOMISH TRIBE

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## Legend of the Dog Salmon People

*This is the story of how the Dog Salmon people of the North Fork Skokomish River began.*

*In the time when the first human beings lived in the land and were learning how to survive, they learned from the animals at the beginning of what we would call history.*

*The chief of the Dog Salmon now knew it was time for his daughter-in-law and his grandchildren to return to the land of their mother's birth.*

*The killer whales are the guardians of the great salt waters.*

*They escorted our ancestors, the Dog Salmon People, from the great salt water that we call the land of foods, all the way back to where Hood Canal and the Skokomish River meet.*

*It was here they danced the dance of the Salmon People.*

We are a group of native village communities in the Hood Canal area of Western Washington. Our people called themselves collectively tuwa'duxq, commonly anglicized as Twana, and we spoke a Salish language. There were nine villages in our community and our people lived in longhouses along Hood Canal. The nine sites were Dabop, Quilcene, Dosewallips, and Duckabush (in the northern and lower Hood Canal area near Hoodspout), Skokomish, and Vance Creek (near the mouth of the Skokomish River or in its drainage area), and Tahuya and Duhlelap (on the upper, southern arm of Hood Canal).

The tuwa'duxq people were moved to the 3,840 acre reservation when they signed the Point-No-Point Treaty in January, 1855. An executive order on February 25, 1874 established the reservation boundaries and increased it to 4,986.97 acres.

At that time the tribe took the name Skokomish in place of the nine original village names. Many of the families of that day never moved to the reservation, however, deciding instead to take jobs as loggers, mill workers, and canoers.

There were three informants used to gather and document the pre-reservation lives of our people as well as the actual moving from

*Hands on their hips,  
back and forth they danced,  
out of the water on their tails.*

*When they reached the home of their  
mother, they danced from the water  
on to the land.*

*Now they were humans.*

*And it was they who became  
the ancestors of our Skokomish People.*

*And it was at this time that  
our ancestors vowed to honor  
the Dog Salmon People  
with the first salmon ritual,  
till the end of time."*

**Told by Sobi yax (Bruce Miller)  
of the Skokomish Tribe**

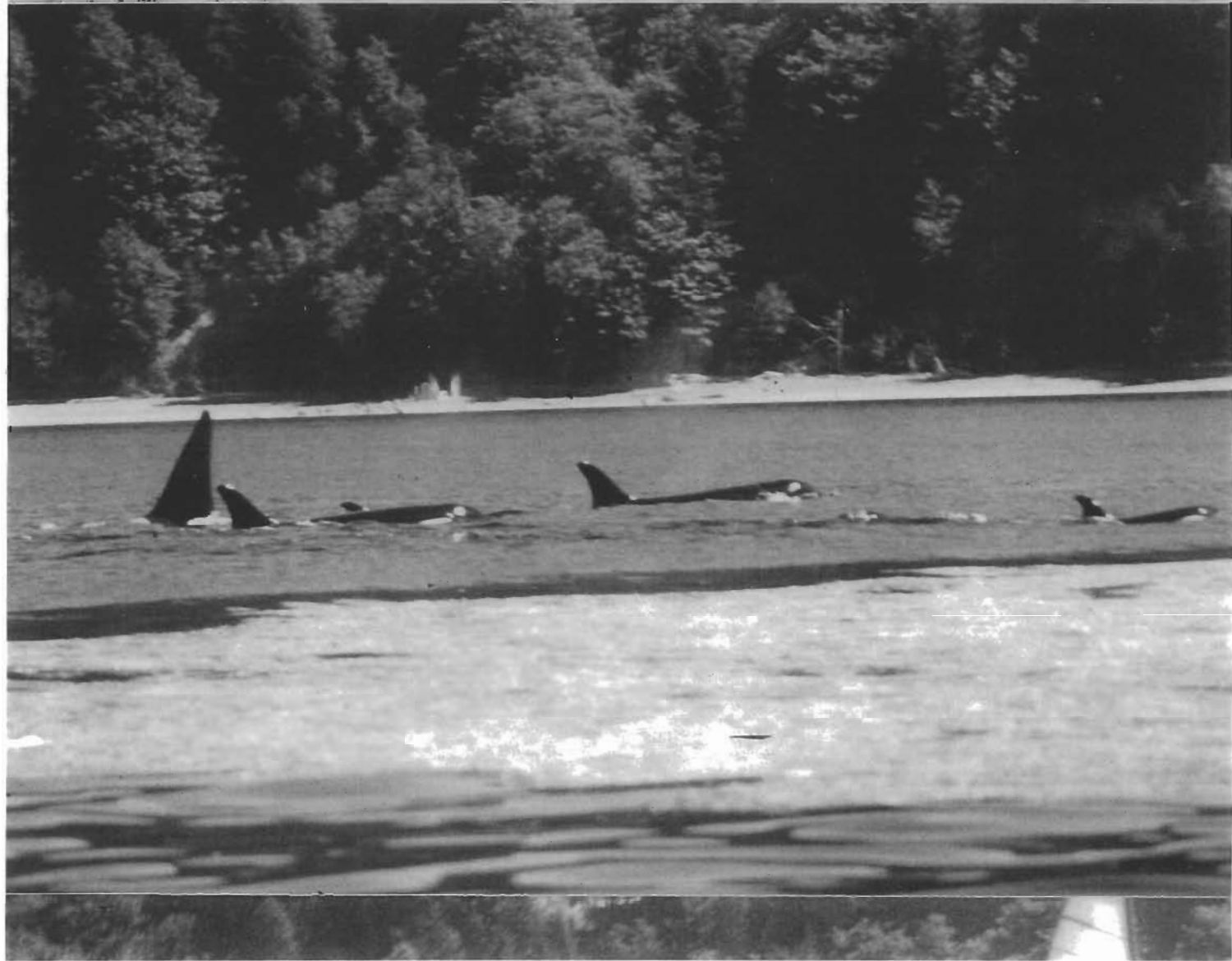
homesite to reservation. Thanks to them, our culture will never die. Two of the three informants were closely related to me: my great-great grampa, Henry Allen, and his older brother, my uncle, Frank Allen. They worked with people such as Myron Eells. My Grampa Henry, also worked with Edward Curtis during his survey of Northwest Coast tribes. Grampa was convinced of the importance of having "the old ways set down correctly." So, in my family, we are taught that we all have a responsibility to practice and pass on the old ways.

The Skokomish Tribe is a proud community that continues to carry on the traditions passed down from grandparent to child to grandchild, and we will continue to do so until the end of time.



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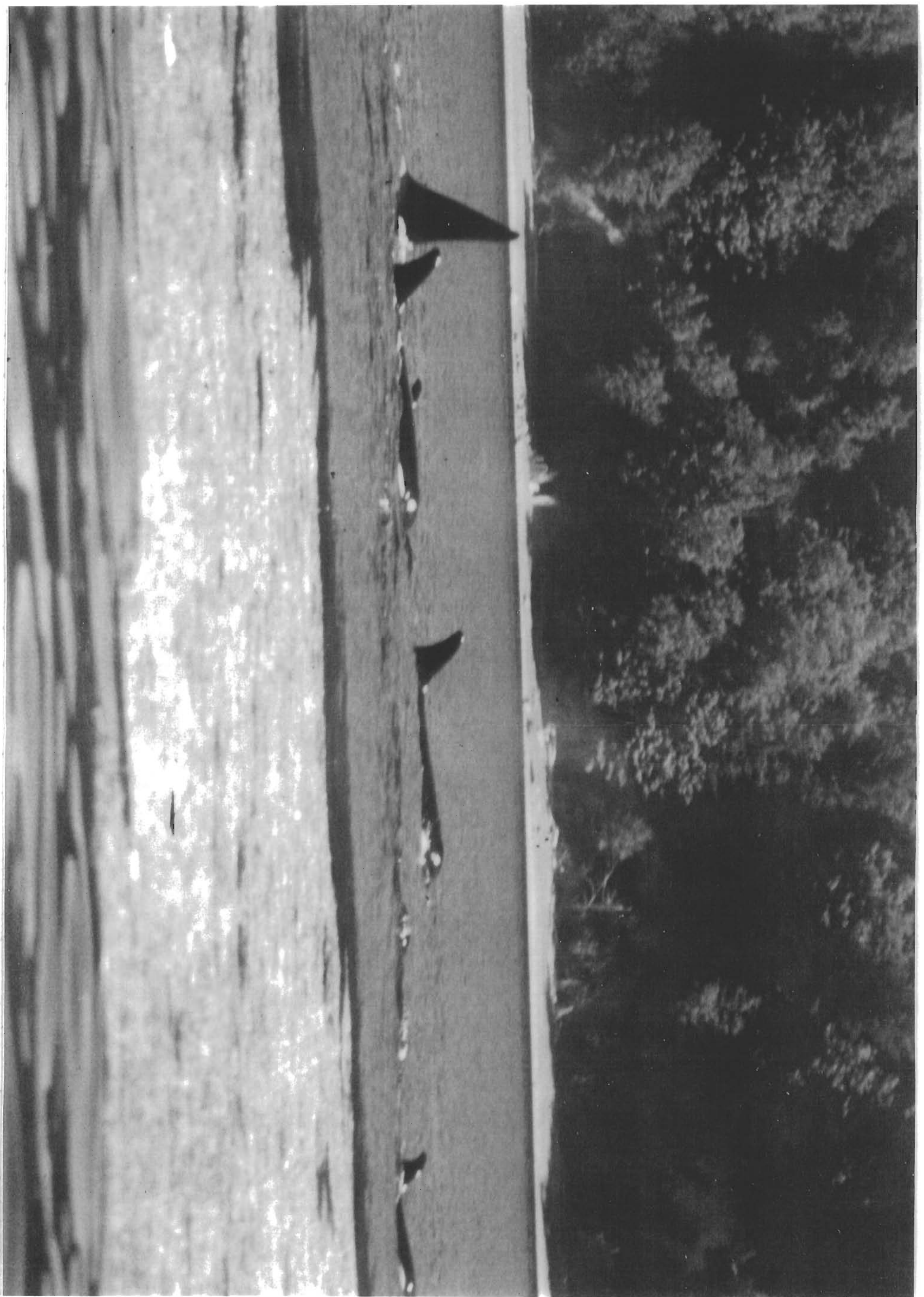
Summer 1973

Photos of ORCA taken from Pt Whitney  
Shellfish Laboratory, Dabob Bay,  
Hood Canal

Property of Kire Pederson, Hood  
Canal resident, whose family  
is in the Sailboat.

Identified as J-pod Southern Res Orca  
by Dr David Bain, whale scientist.





Summer 1973 Photos of ORCA taken from Pt Whitney Shellfish Laboratory, Dabob Bay, Hood Canal; Property of Kirie Pederson (tel 360-796-4532) Hood Canal Resident whose family is in the sailboat.  
Identified as J-pod Southern Resident Orca by Dr David Bain, ~~Whale~~ Scientist.